of mail virtually took away the book-post facility in respect of such mail;

(b) whether it is a fact that the concerned Postal Circle failed to bring to the notice of bulk mailers through personal letters, advertisements in the media etc., the contents of the notification enhancing the postal rates of certain categories of mail; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the steps Government propose to give proper publicity to the provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir. Changes were made in the permissible contents of book-packets only in respect of those items which were covered by Indian Post Office Rule 17(1) (b), (d) and (e) which were deleted. This action only withdrew the facility of manuscript entries in certain classes of articles like bills, invoices, price-lists, premium notices etc. No change of postage rates as such has been ordered from 1st September, 1987.

(b) No, Sir. Publicity was arranged both centrally and through Postal Circles by way of press-notes, contacting important mailers and other means. Detailed instructions were also issued to the Circles for educating customers.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Widening of Vijayawads Ongole Road

1792. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for widening the Vijayawada Ongole Road to a four lane road were sent by the Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, when the necessary sanction for widening the said road is likely to be given and the execution of the work is proposed to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Because of paucity of funds it is not possible to indicate dates for the sanction of the project and its execution.

Widening of National Highway No. 5

1793. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to widen the 100 km Road (N.H.5) to the North of Visakhapatnam and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): This portion of National Highway No. 5 is already double-lane and there is no proposal at present for widening it further.

Widening of NH No. 6

1794. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether necessary sanction was accorded to widen the 50 km. Road (N.H.6) to the North if Vizinagaram from Vizinagaram to Manapuram;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for inordinate delay in getting the work executed by concerned authorities; and

(c) whether Government propose to take up the work urgently in view of the heavy traffic on this road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The portion of road in question falls on National Highway No. 43 and no sanction for widening of this portion of road has so far been issued.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The work of widening 41 kms. of National Highway No. 43 is included in the Seventh Five Year Plan and will be considered for sanction after preliminary Survey and Investigation Report is received, subject to availability of the funds.